

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910958509003321
Autore	Surovell Todd A. <1973->
Titolo	Toward a behavioral ecology of lithic technology : cases from Paleoindian archaeology / / Todd A. Surovell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tucson, : University of Arizona Press, c2009
ISBN	1-299-19210-6 0-8165-9952-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (296 p.)
Disciplina	978.004/97
Soggetti	Paleo-Indians - Great Plains Paleo-Indians - Rocky Mountains Social archaeology - Great Plains Social archaeology - Rocky Mountains Human ecology - Great Plains - History Human ecology - Rocky Mountains - History Stone implements - Great Plains Stone implements - Rocky Mountains Great Plains Antiquities Rocky Mountains Antiquities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First issued as a paperback edition 2011.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Toward a behavioral ecology of lithic technology -- Late Pleistocene foragers of the northern Plains and Rocky Mountains -- Occupation span and residential mobility -- The reoccupation problem -- Stone Age supply-side economics -- Bifaces, and so on : modeling the design of tools and toolkits -- On the optimal production of trash -- Mathematics, lithic technology, and Paleoindians -- Appendix: Site occupancy and camp area.
Sommario/riassunto	Modern humans and their hominid ancestors relied on chipped-stone technology for well over two million years and colonized more than 99 percent of the Earth's habitable landmass in doing so. Yet there currently exist only a handful of informal models derived from ethnographic observation, experiments, engineering, and "common

sense" to explain variability in archaeological lithic assemblages. Because the fundamental processes of making, using, and discarding stone tools are, at root, exercises in problem solving, Todd Surovell asks what conditions favor certain technological solutions. Whether asking if a biface should be made thick or thin or if a flake should be saved or discarded, Surovell seeks answers that extend beyond a case-by-case analysis. One avenue for addressing these questions theoretically is formal mathematical modeling. Here Surovell constructs a series of models designed to link environmental variability to human decision making as it pertains to lithic technology. To test the models, Surovell uses data from the analysis of more than 40,000 artifacts from five Rocky Mountain and Northern Plains Folsom and Goshen complex archaeological sites dating to the Younger Dryas stadial (ca. 12,600-11,500 years BP). The primary result is the production of powerful new analytical tools useful to the interpretation of archaeological assemblages. Surovell's goal is to promote modeling and explore the general issues governing technological decisions. In this light, his models can be applied to any context in which stone tools are made and used.
